

1. (Amended) A control device for controlling the position of a marine seismic streamer, the device comprising an elongate body mechanically connected in series between two adjacent sections of the streamer, sensor means in the body for determining its angular position in a plane approximately perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the streamer, two opposed control surfaces projecting outwardly from the elongate body, each control surface being rotatable about an axis which in use extends transversely of the streamer, control means responsive to control signals and the sensor means for independently adjusting the respective angular positions of said two control surfaces so as to control the lateral position of the streamer as well as its depth, and a quick release attachment interconnected between each of the control surfaces and the elongate body adapted for releasably securing the control surfaces to the elongate body.

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 12 are in this application.

Claims 14 and 15 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a 'quick release attachment', interconnected between each of the two control surfaces and the elongate body, adapted for releasably securing the control surfaces to the elongate body. A 'body' was originally recited in claim 1, although the term 'elongate' has been added to ensure that said 'body' refers to the elongate body 12 in figure 1.

The examiner rejected claims 1-12 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Fowler in US Patent 4,711,194.


It is believed that, in view of the above amendments, claim 1, and therefore claims 1-12, patentably distinguish over the Fowler reference. An early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Attached is a marked up version of the changes made to claim 1. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

Accordingly, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-12 is respectfully requested.

Please charge any additional fee and credit any overpayment to deposit account 07-1078.

Respectfully Submitted,


John H. Bouchard
Registration No. 29,286
Attorney for Applicant

GeoQuest, a division of
Schlumberger Technology Corporation
Office of Patent Counsel
5599 San Felipe, Suite 1700
Houston, Texas 77056-2722
(713) 513-2515

FAX COPY RECEIVED

MAR 21 2001

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Date: March 20, 2001

Version with markings to show changes made

In the Claims

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A control device for controlling the position of a marine seismic streamer, the device comprising [a] an elongate body mechanically connected in series between two adjacent sections of the streamer, sensor means in the body for determining its angular position in a plane approximately perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the streamer, two opposed control surfaces projecting outwardly from the elongate body, each control surface being rotatable about an axis which in use extends transversely of the streamer, [and] control means responsive to control signals and the sensor means for independently adjusting the respective angular positions of said two control surfaces so as to control the lateral position of the streamer as well as its depth, and a quick release attachment interconnected between each of the control surfaces and the elongate body adapted for releasably securing the control surfaces to the elongate body.

FAX COPY RECEIVED
MAR 21 2001
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800